

Dear USDA Approved Software Company:

The eighth release of the Child Nutrition Database (CN8) is currently available for computer software companies that have received approval from the Department of Agriculture for their nutrient analysis software. The CN8 release contains over 2,000 new or revised items for a total of 15,367 food items, including over 12,000 processed foods. The eighth release can be downloaded from the Healthy School Meals Resource System website at <http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/Software>. This web location also contains the *System Components and File Formats* document that defines the structural design of the CN8 Database. Please note that there has been a structural design change for CN8. The MDES table has been combined with the GMWT table. This new table has been renamed the Weight (WGHT) table in CN 8. This change was made to be consistent with the USDA National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference Release (SR) 15. All SR 15 updates have been applied to the SR products included in this release. One new SR item has been added. Additionally, the updated Food Buying Guide File (BUYGD) and the Food Buying Guide Link File (BYGDLNK) reflects the changes made in the *November 2001, Revised Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (Program aid 1331)*.

The CN8 Database is an integral part of both the Nutrient Standard and Assisted Nutrient Standard Menu Planning Systems. The new data is vital to School Meals Program administrators, especially the updated and new nutrient values. We ask that you notify Tim Vázquez at (703) 305-2609, as soon as possible if your software users will not be updated with the new CN8 Database within 90 days of receiving this letter. Tim is also available to answer any questions you may have about the new CN8 Database. Once updated, please forward a copy of your software to Natalie Partridge, C/O National Agricultural Library, Food and Nutrition Information Center, Room 105, 10301 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2351.

Sincerely,

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division

FINAL:CND:FNS:VAZQUEZ:vrn:305-609:09/24/2003:
Doc:I:cndnptb:tas:Vazquez:For Final:CN-8thRelease08262003